

The first presidential election since the Jan. 6 attack will test new guardrails from Congress

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — This presidential election, the first since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol, will be a stress test of the new systems and guardrails that Congress put in place to ensure America's long tradition of the peaceful transfer of presidential power.


As Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris race toward the finish, pro-democracy advocates and elected officials are preparing for a volatile period in the aftermath of Election Day, as legal challenges are filed, bad actors spread misinformation and voters wait for Congress to affirm the results.

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Rioters storm the West Front of the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.


Associated Press



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The first presidential election since the Jan. 6 attack will test new guardrails from Congress

Continued from Front

"One of the unusual characteristics of this election is that so much of the potential danger and so many of the attacks on the election system are focused on the post-election period," said Wendy Weiser, vice president for democracy at the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice.

After the Jan. 6 attack, Congress set out to shore up the process and prevent a repeat of that unprecedented period when Trump, joined by some GOP allies in Congress, refused to concede defeat to President Joe Biden. Trump spent months pushing dozens of failed legal cases before sending his supporters to the U.S. Capitol, where they disrupted the electoral count with a bloody riot. He faces a federal indictment for the scheme, which included slates of fake electors from states falsely claiming he won.

While the new Electoral Count Reform Act approved by Congress has clarified the post-election processes — to more speedily resolve legal challenges and reinforce that the vice president has no ability to change the election outcome on Jan. 6 — the new law is by no means ironclad.

Much depends on the people involved, from the presidential winners and losers to the elected leaders in Congress and the voters across America putting their trust in the democratic system that has stood for more than 200 years. Over the weekend, Trump said he and House Speaker Mike Johnson have a "little secret" for winning the election.

Voters are worried about



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks at the Capitol in Washington, July 23, 2024.

Associated Press

post-election strife

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that American voters are approaching the election with deep unease about what could follow.

Dick Gephardt, the former House leader, now serves on the executive board of the nonpartisan Keep our Republic, which has been working to provide civic education about the process in the presidential battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. "We are concerned about one thing and one thing only: Can Americans still have valid trust in elections and can we have consistently a peaceful transfer of power in all offices, including the presidency?" Gephardt said in a briefing earlier this month. "January 6th in 2021 was really a wake-up call, I think, for all of us," he said.

It's not just the onslaught of legal challenges that worries democracy groups, as dozens of cases already have

been filed by both Republicans and Democrats even before Election Day. They say the sheer volume of cases has the potential to sow doubt in the election tally and give rise to disinformation, both domestic and foreign, as happened in 2020 when Trump's legal team unfurled far-flung theories that proved to be wildly inaccurate.

As Trump runs to retake the White House, he is already setting the stage for challenges to the election he wants to be "too big to rig." The Republican National Committee has made legal strategy a cornerstone of its Election Integrity program. Trump is backed by Republicans on Capitol Hill, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, who has adopted similar language, saying he would accept the results only if the election is free and fair.

"We're going to have the peaceful transition of power," said Johnson, who led one of Trump's 2020 legal

challenges, on CBS. "I believe President Trump's going to win, and this will be taken care of."

One specific line of attack from House Republicans has been to suggest there will be illegal voting by noncitizens, even though it is a crime to do so, and state and federal reviews have found it to be extremely rare. Johnson has pointed to past House races, including one in Iowa in 2020 that was won by six votes, to bolster his concerns.

Rep. Joseph Morelle of New York, the top Democrat on the Committee on House Administration, said Johnson is "saying the quiet part out loud," signaling the way Republicans may challenge the outcome.

That "troubles me," he said. What comes between election and inauguration?

At the Brennan Center, they've conducted war-game-like scenarios for what could happen after the election, at a time when state election officials are facing a resurgence in con-

spiracy theories and misinformation about voting.

A series of deadlines between Election Day on Nov. 5 and Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 are built into the process, once routine steps that are now important milestones that can be met — or missed.

States are required to certify their electors by Dec. 11 in advance of a meeting of the Electoral College, which is set this year on Dec. 17.

The new Congress convenes Jan. 3 to elect a House speaker and swear in lawmakers. Then, on Jan. 6, Congress holds a joint session to accept the electoral count from the states — a typically ceremonial session presided over by the vice president.

To fortify the process in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack, the Electoral Count Reform Act instituted several changes intended to shore up the process and make sure the disputes are resolved by the time the Congress meets. Legal challenges to the results are to be more quickly resolved, under an expedited timeline for judicial review, all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary. If a county refuses to certify its results, as some did during the 2022 midterm elections, the governor has more authority to certify the state's tally.

On Jan. 6, the law now requires 20% of the House and Senate to challenge a state's electors to force a vote on rejecting them, rather than a single member threshold from each chamber.

"You know people have a right, if they have a problem with the election, to go to court and be heard," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. "The thing is, once that's over, it's over." □

Biden announces \$3B to reduce carbon emissions at U.S. ports, 'the linchpin to America's supply chain'

By **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is awarding nearly \$3 billion to boost climate-friendly equipment and infrastructure at ports across the country, including Baltimore, where a bridge collapse killed six construction workers in March and disrupted East Coast shipping routes for months.

President Joe Biden announced the federal funding Tuesday during a visit to the city's main port, saying the money will improve and electrify port infrastructure at 55 sites nationwide while supporting an estimated 40,000 union jobs, reducing pollution and combating the climate crisis. The presidential visit, a week before Election Day, was intended to highlight efforts by Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to promote clean energy while protecting and creating jobs.

"Ports are the linchpin to America's supply chain," Biden said in a speech at Dundalk Marine Terminal, near the site of the March 26 bridge collapse that closed commercial shipping traffic for nearly three months. A small blue and white sign near the site reminded passersby, "Project funded by President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act," the 2022 law approved with only Democratic votes.

While the grant announcement appeared timed to help Harris' campaign for president, Biden seemingly ignored those concerns as he followed Maryland Democratic Gov. Wes Moore to the outdoor podium, flanked by metal ship containers. "I think he may be the best governor in the country," Biden said of Moore, bypassing a chance to praise Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Biden used his speech to repeatedly criticize former President Donald Trump, and he took an indirect swipe at a controversy Trump is facing after appearing at a weekend rally in New York where racist comments were made



President Joe Biden speaks during an event about his Investing in America agenda, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, at the Dundalk Marine Terminal in Baltimore.

Associated Press

about Puerto Rico. Biden emphasized that federal funding for ports includes Puerto Rico. At one point, he even reminded himself with a laugh, "Don't get going, Joe. Slow up."

The Port of Baltimore, one of the busiest on the East Coast, is a major hub for the import and export of motor vehicles and farm equipment. More than 20,000 workers support port operations, including unionized longshoremen and truckers. The Baltimore port and others across the country "keep goods moving — keep the economy strong," Biden said. "And they employ over 100,000 union workers, from Teamsters to longshoremen. But for too long, they've run on fossil fuels and aging infrastructure, putting workers at risk and exposing nearby communities to dangerous pollution."

The new funding will help ports and communities across the country cut operating costs and keep consumer prices down, "while slashing carbon pollution and supporting an estimated 40,000 new, good-paying jobs to support clean energy manufacturing all across America," Biden said. "This is about environmental justice," he added, citing studies that show higher childhood asthma, cancer and lung and heart disease in residents who live near U.S.

ports. Grants announced Tuesday include \$147 million for the Maryland Port Administration to buy and install cargo-handling equipment and trucks to transition the port into a zero-greenhouse-gas-emission facility.

The Maryland port is among 55 ports across 27 states and territories that will receive nearly \$3 billion through the Clean Ports Program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ports receiving money include the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority, the ports of Savannah and Brunswick, Georgia, as well as Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Oakland, California. □

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Lawsuit claims ICE withheld \$300M in bond payments from immigrants

By GISELA SALOMON
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities illegally kept more than \$300 million in bond payments from tens of thousands of low-income immigrant families and U.S. citizens, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement kept the money for so long that \$240 million was transferred to a U.S. Treasury account for unclaimed funds, said Motley Rice LLC, one of the firms that filed the lawsuit in federal court for the Eastern District of New York. The lawsuit, which addresses longstanding complaints, seeks class-action status for those who paid cash to bail out family members detained by ICE. Motley Rice, a firm that represents clients on a wide variety of class-action lawsuits, said it had been investigating the issue for two years. Immigration bonds are set by ICE and immigration judges and allow noncitizens who are facing removal proceedings to be released in the U.S. while



A security guard poses for a photo next to the group holding cells during a media tour of the Port Isabel Detention Center (PIDC), hosted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Harlingen Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) in Los Fresnos, Texas, June 10, 2024.

Associated Press

their cases are decided in court. The average bail payment is \$6,000 according to the lawsuit. Based on information obtained through public records requests and other cases, there are tens of thousands of class members, the lawsuit claims. "The precise number and

identification of the class members will be ascertainable from the government's records," it says. Once the immigration case has concluded, family and friends of those detained are entitled to get their money back immediately in some cases or within 60 days in others, according

to the online ICE handbook. ICE, however, "regularly fails to return these funds, even when all conditions have been met and proceedings have concluded," according to the lawsuit. ICE declined to comment, saying it does not discuss

pending litigation. The case filed this week is on behalf Douglas Cortez of Uniondale, New York, who posted bond for \$10,000 to have his friend released from detention. In August 2023, his friend's proceedings were dismissed, but more than a year later Cortez has still not received any notice and has not received a refund for the cash deposit he made. "They have taken thousands of dollars from hard-working immigrant families who deserve to have their money returned," said Deepak Gupta, an attorney from Gupta Wessler LLP, the other law firm that filed the lawsuit. "We want ICE to fix this system, we want the court to declare that ICE is violating its legal obligations under the contract so that this doesn't happen to other families again in the future." Gupta said that they arrived at the figure of \$300 million after carefully reviewing government documents they obtained through FOIA requests and court records. □

U.S. chooses winning bids in first commercial sale for floating offshore Atlantic wind

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The U.S. government chose winning bids Tuesday to develop wind power off New England in the first commercial sale for floating offshore wind on the Atlantic coast. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held a lease sale and selected nearly \$22 million in winning bids for four lease areas from two firms. The sale is a major step toward accelerating President Joe Biden's goal of dramatically expanding offshore wind energy capacity by 2030. Environmentalists praised the lease sale, though commercial fishermen who have questioned the expansion of offshore wind

said they remain opposed. The lease areas are in the Gulf of Maine, which is a critical fishing ground for the U.S. lobster industry. The awarding of the leases

is "a critical step in our fight against climate change," said U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. "Together, we can create good paying jobs, build a

domestic supply chain, and ensure that the momentum of this offshore industry continues for generations to come," Haaland said in a statement. Two of the leases went to Avangrid Renewables for areas about 35 miles (55 kilometers) from Massachusetts. The other two leases went to Invenergy NE Offshore Wind for areas about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Massachusetts. The four areas combined are more than 625 square miles (1,600 square kilometers). The leased areas have the potential to power more than 2.3 million homes, the Interior Department said in a statement. Avangrid said in a statement that the leased areas will enable the company

to progress floating wind technology. The next generation of offshore wind development is increasingly taking place in deep waters, the company said. Avangrid is a joint owner, along with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, of the Vineyard Wind project, a 62-turbine wind farm under construction 15 miles (24 kilometers) off the coast of Massachusetts. "Securing these lease areas provides a unique opportunity to advance our growing business at a significant value, and reinforces our unwavering commitment to helping the New England region meet its growing need for reliable, clean energy," Avangrid CEO Pedro Azagra said in a statement. □



The first operating South Fork Wind farm turbine is seen 35 miles east of Montauk Point, N.Y., on Dec. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

Hezbollah cleric Naim Kassem picked to lead the Lebanese militant group

By BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hezbollah announced Tuesday it has chosen cleric Naim Kassem to lead the Lebanese militant group after the killing of its longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb in late September.

The group said in a statement that Hezbollah's decision-making Shura Council elected Kassem, 71, as its new secretary-general and vowed to continue Nasrallah's policies "until victory is achieved."

Since Nasrallah's death as part of an Israeli offensive that took out many of Hezbollah's senior officials, the white-turbaned cleric with a gray beard has often been the public face of the Lebanese militant group. He is one of its founding members but is widely seen by supporters as lacking his predecessor's oratory skills.

Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant posted on X after the announcement about Kassem: "Temporary appointment. Not for long." It was a clear threat that Israel will go after Kassem as it did earlier by assassinating top Hezbollah officials.

In a televised speech earlier this month, Kassem, who carries the clerical title of sheikh, claimed Hezbollah's military capabilities were intact after Nasrallah's assassination and warned Israelis they will only suffer further as fighting continues.

Kassem has been sanc-



The deputy chief of Hezbollah, Sheik Naim Kassem, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday June 2, 2009.

Associated Press

tioned by the United States, which considers Hezbollah a terrorist group. His appointment came as no surprise since he had served as Nasrallah's deputy for 32 years and had also long been Hezbollah's public face, giving interviews to local and foreign media outlets.

"This is a message to Lebanon and abroad that Hezbollah has reorganized itself," said Qassim Qassir, a Lebanese analyst close to Hezbollah.

Kassem's appointment shows Hezbollah is running its own affairs and not as some have reported that advisers from Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard are now in charge of the group,

Qassir added.

In an interview with The Associated Press in July, Kassem said he didn't believe that Israel had the capacity or had yet made the decision to launch a full-blown war with Hezbollah. But he warned that even if Israel intended to undertake a limited operation in Lebanon that stopped short of a full-scale war, it should not expect the fighting to remain limited. A day after Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 as hostages, Hezbollah began attacking Israeli military posts along the border with Lebanon, saying

it was opening a backup front for its Hamas allies. The attack triggered the year-long Israel-Hamas war and Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The count does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but more than half of the dead are said to be women and children.

"No one knows the consequences of igniting the war in Lebanon, regionally and even internationally," Kassem said at the time, speaking from the group's political headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs.

He said he was proud of Hezbollah's achievements in its

"support front" for Hamas, saying it "required sacrifices on our part."

Less than three months later, Israel expanded the war in Lebanon, leaving hundreds dead and more than 1.2 million people displaced. The invasion has caused wide destruction in southern and eastern Lebanon, as well as Beirut's southern suburbs that are home to Hezbollah's headquarters. Israeli troops engage in daily fierce clashes with Hezbollah in the border region as they try to push deeper into south Lebanon. Hezbollah is still firing dozens of rockets and missiles into northern Israel and in recent days claimed an attack on an Israeli military base south of Tel Aviv.

It also claimed responsibility for a drone attack that hit the home of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month. No one was hurt in that attack.

Born in 1953 in the town of Kfar Fila in southern Lebanon, Kassem studied chemistry at the Lebanese University before working for several years as a chemistry teacher.

He simultaneously pursued religious studies and participated in founding the Lebanese Union for Muslim Students, an organization meant to promote religion. In the 1970s, he joined the Movement of the Dispossessed, a political organization that pushed for greater representation for Lebanon's historically overlooked and impoverished Shiite community. □

A hotel collapses in Argentina and leaves 1 dead and several trapped

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A 10-story hotel under renovation in Argentina collapsed Tuesday, leaving one person dead and at least seven trapped in the debris, authorities said. Firefighters searching for survivors rescued a woman who was alive from the rubble of the Dubrovnik Hotel in Villa Gesell, a coastal city 217 miles (350 km) south of the capital Buenos Aires.

A prosecutor opened an investigation to determine the cause of the collapse, but Villa Gesell's municipality said in a press release that the hotel was undergoing a renovation without the proper permits.

Javier Alonso, security minister for the Buenos Aires' province, told journalists that an 80-year-old man died in the collapse and a woman was taken alive from the debris. He added that between seven and nine people, presumably masons working on the hotel's restoration, remain trapped.

Rescue team members began removing the rubble by hand while waiting for a crane and some engineers to evaluate the area. □



A view of debris from the partially collapsed Dubrovnik Hotel, in Villa Gesell, Argentina, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024.

Associated Press

Sudan's warring forces are escalating attacks and outsiders are 'fueling the fire,' Guterres says

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Sudan's warring military and paramilitary forces are escalating attacks with outside powers "fueling the fire," which is intensifying the nightmare of hunger and disease for millions, the United Nations chief said Monday. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the U.N. Security Council that the 18-month war faces the serious possibility of "igniting regional instability from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa to the Red Sea."

In a grim report, Guterres said the Sudanese people are living through numerous "nightmares" from killings and "unspeakable atrocities" including widespread rapes to fast-spreading diseases, mass ethnic violence, and 750,000 people facing "catastrophic food insecurity" and famine conditions in North Darfur displacement sites.

He singled out "shocking reports of mass killings and sexual violence" in villages in east-central Gezira province in recent days. The U.N. and a doctors' group said



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attends Outreach/BRICS Plus format session at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024.

paramilitary fighters ran riot in the region in a multi-day attack that killed more than 120 people in one town.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital Khartoum and spread to other regions including western Darfur.

The war has killed more than 24,000 people so far, according to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, a group monitoring the conflict since it started. It has created the world's worst displacement crisis, with more than 11 million people fleeing their homes including 3 million to neighboring countries.

Guterres urged both sides

to immediately agree to a cessation of hostilities, ensure the protection of civilians for which they bear primary responsibility, and enable humanitarian aid to flow to millions in need.

The secretary-general said he is "horrified" by reports that the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, continue to attack civilians

in North Darfur's capital El Fasher and surrounding areas, including displacement sites where famine has been confirmed.

"And I am also horrified by reports of attacks against civilians perpetrated by forces affiliated with the Sudanese Armed Forces in Khartoum, and by continuing mass civilian casualties due to apparently indiscriminate airstrikes in populated areas," he said. Guterres said those who violate international humanitarian law must be held accountable. The war began four years after a pro-democracy uprising forced the military's ouster of Sudan's longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir which was followed by a short-lived transition to democracy.

It has been marked by atrocities such as mass rape and ethnicity-motivated killings.

The United Nations and international rights groups say these acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly in the western region of Darfur, which has been facing a bitter onslaught by the RSF, which was born out of the Janjaweed. □

Associated Press

Attack on a health center used in an anti-polio campaign in Pakistan kills 2 police officers

By RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Militants attacked a health center used in an ongoing anti-polio campaign in northwestern Pakistan on

Tuesday, triggering a shootout that left two police officers dead, local authorities said. Three of the attackers were also killed in the exchange of fire.

No one immediately

claimed responsibility for the attack in Orakzai, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban.

Local police officer Adnan Khan said the attack happened in the morning as health workers were gathering ahead of leaving for the door-to-door campaign along with police, who escort polio teams for their safety.

No polio worker was harmed in Tuesday's attack but another police officer who was wounded later died at a hospital, Khan added.

The attack drew condemnation from the country's top political leadership, including President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who paid

tributes to the slain officers for bravely responding to the attack.

Also Tuesday, militants stormed a health center in North Waziristan, another former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, snatched guns from officers and warned health workers who had gathered there not to take part in the anti-polio campaign, local police officer Shoib Khan said.

The attackers then left with the weapons they seized, he said, without offering more details.

Militants in Pakistan often target police and health workers during campaigns against polio, claiming the vaccination drives are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Pakistan and Afghanistan

are the only two countries in the world where the spread of polio has never been stopped.

In severe cases, polio can cause permanent paralysis and death.

Pakistan on Monday launched another nationwide polio drive to vaccinate 45 million children under age 5 after a surge in new cases. The campaign is the third this year.

Pakistan has recorded 41 cases across 71 districts so far this year, mostly in the southwestern Balochistan and southern Sindh provinces, as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and eastern Punjab province.

In Afghanistan, local health authorities said Monday that vaccinations have started in 16 of the country's 34 provinces. □



A police officer stands guard as a health worker, center, administers a polio vaccine to a child in a neighbourhood of Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024.

Associated Press



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a fur-

ther search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island.

Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as

Visit the island's hidden natural pools

proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep,

and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring

visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours



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provides you the freedom to call anytime or choose from the different Prepaid bundles SETAR offers: Data Bundles: Stay connected with high-speed Internet and choose from various data options to suit your needs.

One Bundle: Enjoy the convenience of bundled SMS, Voice, and Data in one package. SETAR ensures you have the best communication experience during your time in Aruba.

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Are you planning a trip to Aruba that blends business with leisure, or perhaps seeking a remote work setup? Whether you're coming to Aruba for business or to embrace a 'workcation,' SETAR has tailored solutions to ensure seamless and uninterrupted connectivity during your stay.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Christopher & Mrs. Maria Chiaffarelli from Dumont New Jersey, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their fa-

vorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's food.
- Aruba's local.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- "Relaxing and also lots to see and the list can go on.."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:
Goodwill Ambassador
Mr. Jay Tanenbaum from New York, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Home away from Home.
- Friendly people all over.
- The weather is always



beautiful.

- A lot to explore and discover on the island from the Lighthouse to Baby Beach.
- It is one Happy Island!

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally



called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However,

you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light



House.

4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Dutch Caribbean art in the last century

Etnia Nativa offers—in situ—a unique native experience opportunity that fuses education and entertainment, challenging you to interact with our exclusive team while accessing an interesting private property made with repurposed materials sorted by our concept developer. Meet a top columnist, avocational archaeologist, native artist, and island's cultural expert. Choose to dive at the core of your travel destination through the navel of Aruba!

In this episode, Etnia Nativa shares a bit regarding "Dutch" Caribbean art in the 20 century.

It is obvious that we cannot mention all those who participated and contributed with their love, passion, and talent in our Dutch Caribbean expressionism that was always marked by exuberance, rebellion, impulses, and feelings related to the temperament of the artist, but in this episode we chose three of them: Hubert "Lio" Booi, Johannes Pandellis, and Theo Van Delft. Since their early Dutch Caribbean expressionistic point of view and miscegenation combines realism and surrealism, alternating abstraction and figuration, a particular style began emerging in the mid-1940s.

The diverse shared roots made that Caribbean art adapted constantly to change. However, Aruba's indigenous heritage and patrimonial legacy kept its strong aesthetic values.

Hubert "Lio" Booi, born in Bonaire (*1919-+2014) but resident in Aruba since 1937, has shown his appreciation for our island through all possible means, including art, music, and literature. Lio has dedicated his life to Aruba and its culture, immortalizing the iconic lime kiln of Oranjestad in one of his paintings. "Lio" Booi

is also the co-author of the Aruba National Anthem.

European artists, professionals, and amateurs traveled to all the islands of the Caribbean, some of them establishing and inaugurating local art related to the academy and styles of their European academies from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Expressionism was a way of affirming identity. In short, the expressionism that, devoid of taboos and impositions, permeated the Netherlands Antilles, permeated an important sector of Anglophone art (English-speaking countries)—in particular Jamaica and Barbados—and reached the Francophones: Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Haiti—and flourished in 1950 in Spanish-speaking countries such as Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico, and a decade later it arrived in Cuba as an ideological and aesthetic manifestation of shock. Dutch Caribbean Art Development (Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles) in the former colonies in the beginning of the 20th century: painters in Aruba also worked according to the traditional, European academic style.

The Greek artist Johannes Pandellis (1896–1965), who lived in Suriname and Curacao during the years of the First World War, later came to Aruba

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and was one of the first artists to work and teach on our island, leaving a legacy of beloved students and works highly valued by collectors.

Another painter was Theodorus Josephus van Delft, alias Theo van Delft Jansz (1914–2005), who lived in Curaçao and Aruba for a while and also enjoyed painting rustic landscapes of the islands. In 1960, Amigo de Curaçao newspaper dedicated a column to Theo van Delft: "It must have been about ten years ago that Theo from Delft came to Curaçao, coming from a family of painters himself, and was offered a position as a teacher. Theo van Delft knew that what had started as an orientation trip could well become a permanent situation and thus began his life in Curaçao," leaving behind beautiful works for the next generations to enjoy.

The original paintings shows in this episode are "Lime Kiln in Oranjestad," painted by Hubert "Lio" Booi. "Schooner haven Oranjestad," painted by Pandellis, and "Aruban countryside," by Theo van Delft Jansz, are part of the private collection of Etnia Nativa, on permanent display.



If you liked our native stories and are interested in diving deeper into learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. We have been a trendsetting entity since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper shares our valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through our real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls to the bone. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com

Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 Kind of boom
1 Seize
5 Many viral posts
10 Purple hue
12 "Hello" singer
13 Texas player
14 Striped cat
15 Last letter
16 Draw attention away from
18 Madden
20 Sandy color
21 Plucked instrument
23 Early hour
24 Sirius, for one
26 Budget item
28 Pool need
29 Fake coin
31 Thurman of film
32 Hire
36 Run riot
39 Cowboy nickname
40 Not moving
41 Avignon's river
43 Bert's buddy
- DOWN**
- 1 Pottery coat
2 Out of bed
3 Change
4 Butter unit
5 Yoga needs
6 Fix text
7 Bomb unit
8 Posh
9 Placid
11 Mountain lions
17 Pricing word
19 Cry of insight
22 Hedge trimmers
24 Indone-sian island
25 Joining forces
27 Chick holder
28 "Drat!"
30 Relay section
33 Make amends
34 Wish granter
35 Busi-ness
37 Ballet bend
38 Brighton brews
42 Blazing

I	R	I	S	E	S	A	C	H	E
T	U	R	T	L	E	C	R	O	W
S	E	S	A	M	E	T	O	T	E
			C	O	S	M	I	C	
W	A	C	K		A	V	O	W	S
A	S	H		R	A	K	E	D	I
T	S	A		O	L	E		I	D
T	E	M	P	L	E	S		L	E
S	T	E	E	L		S	E	N	T
		L	O	S	T	I	T		
S	T	E	P		H	A	R	B	O
P	O	O	L		I	G	U	A	N
A	N	N	E		N	O	T	Y	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19				20		
			21		22		23		
	24	25			26	27			
28				29	30				
31				32			33	34	35
36			37	38			39		
40					41	42			
43					44				
45						46			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

L Y F C T I Q Q G R C S Q Z L E Y .
V I S C D W F N Q V E F C Y I C S T F A V
L E I V Y I T L J I , Y A I T
V L J W F N A S Y I V , S E V C A S U I Q I V
F E . — Q F N L J I I A V A L W D ,
" C A S W Z J "

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE'RE FOOLS
WHETHER WE DANCE OR NOT, SO WE MIGHT AS
WELL DANCE — JAPANESE PROVERB

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

8	6					2		9
	9				3			
	4	2		1				5
6			7			3	1	
							7	4
				4			9	
1			5			9		7
	7		2					3
		8	1				5	

Difficulty: ★★★

10/30

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	7	6	4	1	2	5	3
4	3	2	7	5	8	1	9	6
6	5	1	2	3	9	4	7	8
7	1	9	5	6	2	8	3	4
3	2	4	1	8	7	9	6	5
8	6	5	3	9	4	7	1	2
2	9	6	4	1	3	5	8	7
5	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	1
1	7	3	8	2	5	6	4	9

Difficulty: ★★

10/29

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

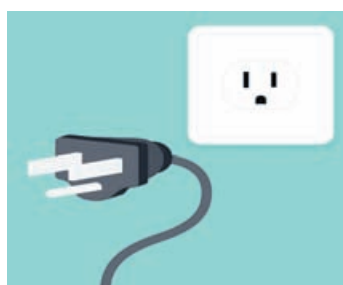
Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Google's moneymaking machine still pumping out massive profits despite multiple threats

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is still thriving while the company navigates through a pivotal shift to artificial intelligence and battles regulators trying to topple its internet empire. The latest evidence of Google's prosperity emerged Tuesday with the release of its corporate parent Alphabet Inc.'s results for the July-September period. Both Alphabet's profit and revenue increased at a brisker pace than industry analysts anticipated, thanks primarily to a moneymaking machine powered by Google's ubiquitous search engine. Alphabet earned \$26.3 billion, or \$2.12 per share during the most recent quarter, a 34% increase from a

year ago. Revenue rose 15% from the same time last year to \$88.27 billion. The profits would have been even higher if Google wasn't pouring so much money into building up its AI arsenal in a technological arms race that includes other industry heavyweights Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Facebook parent Meta Platforms and rising star OpenAI. The AI investments are the primary reason Google's capital expenditures in the past quarter soared 62% from the same time last year to \$13.1 billion. "Our commitment to innovation as well as the long-term focus and investment in AI are paying off," Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai said during a call discussing the results. □

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2 Bed Garden view \$16,500
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WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

GOLD SEASON

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Trupiaal: Tel.5835 8560

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto:Tel. 584 4833

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
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EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Narcotics Anonymous
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How to protect yourself from scammers offering fake jobs

By **ADRIANA MORGA**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Between finding openings, sending out your resume and interviewing, looking for a job is tough. Now a growing trend of scammers impersonating recruiters is making it even harder.

In the last year, job scams have been on the rise, according to Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit that helps consumers when their identities are compromised. Because most job seekers turn to online platforms for employment, scammers impersonate companies and recruiters to trick people into giving them money or personal information.

"We've really seen tremendous growth in job scams," Velasquez said. "I think that's just due to the fact that we fundamentally changed the way we recruit and hire people."

It happened to Tehseen Islam, a 28-year-old quality assurance analyst. She had been looking for a job for a few months when she finally got an offer from a well-known marketing technology company.

Or at least she thought she did. After a weeklong process that included an online form with interview screening questions, Islam was of-



A person types on a keyboard on June 6, 2024, in Portland, Ore.

fered the job and received a check. She was asked to deposit it and send the company \$1,000 to pay for shipment of equipment she'd need for the job.

A few days later, her bank notified her that the check had bounced and, because it looked like she was cooperating with scammers, it was ending all banking relationships with her. That's when she learned the job was a scam.

"I'm a little traumatized," said Islam, who lost the \$1,000 and unknowingly shared personal information with scammers.

If you're a job seeker, here are some recommendations from experts on how to avoid job scammers:

Know how job scams work. Job scams are a type of impersonation scam.

Scammers tend to use the name of an employee from a large company and craft a job posting that matches similar positions. An initial red flag is that scammers usually try to make the job very appealing, Velasquez said.

"They're going to have very high salaries for somewhat low-skilled work," she said. "And they're often saying it's a 100% remote position

because that's so appealing to people."

Some scammers post fake jobs, but others reach out directly to job seekers through direct messages or texts. If the scammers are looking to steal your personal information, they may ask you to fill out several forms that include information like your Social Security number and driver's license details.

The only information a legitimate employer should ask for at the beginning of the process is your skills, your work experience, and your contact information, Velasquez said.

Other details don't generally need to be shared with an employer until after you've gotten an offer.

Do your research

Whether you're replying to a job posting or a recruiter, you must research the company, especially if you didn't initiate the conversation, Velasquez said.

Fake recruiters often contact job seekers through social media or text messages. If someone reaches out to you, verify their identity before responding to their message.

Here are a few recommendations while you research the recruiter or the company:

Don't respond to the message right away.

Go online and research if the company has current job openings on its official website.

Research the name of the recruiter and check if the person has a verifiable social media presence.

If the company has a job opening on its website, apply directly through the website.

Don't reply or click on links. If you receive a message from a recruiter, it's best to not respond unless you know that the source is reputable. Avoid clicking on any links sent to you, whether to apply for a position or to fill out a questionnaire. □

Trump's social media company is now worth more than Musk's X after recent surge in stock price

By **PAUL HARLOFF**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's Truth Social is now worth more than Elon

Musk's X, thanks to a recent run-up in the shares of the parent company of the former president's social media platform.

Trump Media & Technology Group is now valued at over \$10 billion after its shares more than quadrupled since late September. Meanwhile, X Holdings is valued at around \$9.4 billion, based on the most recent value the investment group Fidelity assigned to its stake in the company formerly known as Twitter. The stock of Trump Media, or TMTG, tends to move more with Trump's re-election odds than on its own profit prospects and investors have seen his chances of retaking the presidency improving of late. On Tuesday, the stock rose almost

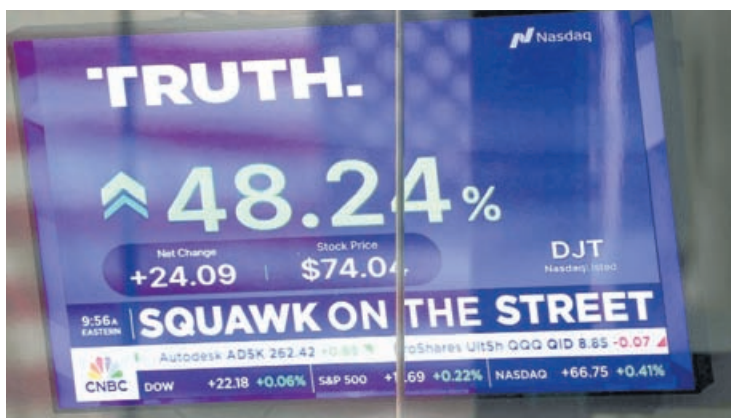
9% to close at \$51.51, on top of a 21.6% gain Monday. The stock was moving so sharply that trading was briefly halted several times during the morning. The stock had dropped to roughly \$12 late last month. Trump created TMTG after he was banned from Twitter and Facebook following the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot. He owns about 57% of the company but has no role in running it.

Based in Sarasota, Florida, TMTG has been losing money and struggling to raise revenue. It lost more than \$16 million in the quarter ending in June while gen-

erating only \$837,000 in revenue, according to regulatory filings.

When Musk took over Twitter in October of 2022, the company was valued at around \$44 billion. At that time, Fidelity Investments valued its stake at \$19.7 million. In a recent regulatory filing, Fidelity's Blue Chip Growth fund said its stake in X Holdings was worth about \$4.2 million.

Other companies TMTG is now bigger than include: Caesars Entertainment, Match Group, Walgreens Boots Alliance and Hasbro, the maker of the Monopoly game. □



The stock price for Truth Social is shown at the Nasdaq building on March 26, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

PGA Tour to consider big changes to eligibility and small field sizes

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Tour is considering sweeping changes that would eliminate 25 cards through the FedEx Cup and shrink the size of fields, part of a plan to make golf's biggest circuit even more competitive while reducing the time it takes to play and making it easier to watch. Proposed changes include cutting by 10 the tour cards awarded to Korn Ferry Tour players and doing away with the four Monday qualifying spots for fields smaller than 144 players.

The proposal sent to players Tuesday, and obtained by The Associated Press, was developed by the 16-member Player Advisory Council that has been crafting the changes since May. The driving force was to make a full PGA Tour card have real value.

With so many eligible players 125 from the FedEx Cup (or money list) had been the standard since 1983 newcomers from the Korn Ferry Tour or Q-school often had to wait to see if there was room for them in tournaments.

If approved by the PGA Tour board at its Nov. 18 meeting, changes would



Sung Kang, of South Korea, hits a shot off the 10th hole during the first round of the AT&T Byron Nelson golf tournament in McKinney, Texas, on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Associated Press

start in 2026.

It would be the latest significant adjustment to the tour since the disruption of Saudi-backed LIV Golf, which began in June 2022. In the last two years, the tour has created \$20 million signature events with limited fields and a postseason for only the top 70 players.

"The reality is that we're all playing under different circumstances than we were four years ago," PAC Chairman Camilo Villegas said in a telephone interview. "We had no competition. We were the best. All of a sud-

den we have competition and there are little shifts. The changes we're proposing make a better product. What does having a PGA Tour card mean?"

The tour currently gives priority to tournament winners and the top 125 in the FedEx Cup, with greater perks depending on a player's ranking. The proposal would give full status to the top 100 in the FedEx Cup, the 10 players eligible players from the European tour, the top 20 from the Korn Ferry Tour and five from Q-school. There would be an

additional spot lower down the priority list behind such categories as PGA Tour University, life members and career money for those who finished from Nos. 101 to 125. They are estimated to get in about 15 or so tournaments.

Villegas said the PAC was divided into four subcommittees, which he said allowed for more ideas and easier communication. Key to two main meetings was leaving behind self-interests.

PAC members range from Scottie Scheffler and Justin

Thomas to Nick Hardy and Adam Schenk.

"Obviously there's going to be casualties along the way," Villegas said. "It is going to be harder. There's not going to be 125 cards, but 100. There's not going to be 30 Korn Ferry cards, but 20. I'm 190-something in the FedEx Cup. All these proposed changes can affect me, but it's not about me. It's about the game."

"We want to make the product as strong as possible for the sponsors, for the fans, for the players," he said. "If we perform, there's an opportunity to make an unbelievable living. You just keep working on your dream like you did when you were a kid."

There also was the ongoing problem of slow play, which rules officials for years have argued was due primarily to too many players on the course. The field sizes would be 120 players before Daylight Savings Time, then up to 132 players and a maximum of 144 in the summer. That's for regular tournaments. The eight signature events with the \$20 million purses would remain capped at 72 players, filling the field, if necessary, based on current form. □

Panthers send WR Diontae Johnson, 6th-round pick to Ravens, get back 5th-rounder, AP source says

By STEVE REED
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens have added another offensive playmaker for quarterback Lamar Jackson.

The Ravens acquired wide receiver Diontae Johnson and a sixth-round pick in 2025 from the Carolina Panthers for a 2025 fifth-rounder, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the trade has not been made official.

Johnson had been Carolina's leading wide receiver since being acquired in an offseason trade with the Pittsburgh Steelers for cornerback Dontae Jackson. Johnson has 30 receptions for 357 yards

and three touchdowns for Carolina, but did not play in Sunday's 28-14 loss to the Denver Broncos because of a rib injury.

Johnson was set to become an unrestricted free agent after the season.

The two-time MVP Jackson is having the best passing season of his career for the Ravens, with a 115.4 rating and 2,099 yards passing. He's thrown 17 touchdown passes with only two interceptions. Johnson now joins second-year wide receiver Zay Flowers and 24-year-old Rashod Bateman — plus a handful of capable tight ends — among Jackson's options. However, it's the defense that threatens to hold the Ravens back.

Baltimore allowed 401 yards in a loss to Cleveland on Sun-

day that left the Ravens (5-3) a game behind Pittsburgh in the AFC North. So even after acquiring Johnson, Baltimore may not be done dealing before the trade deadline. The Panthers (1-7) are likely in selling mode with the season slipping away and eager to improve their draft positioning for next season.

The 28-year-old Johnson's best season came in 2021 when he caught 107 passes for 1,161 yards with eight touchdowns for the Steelers. But he hasn't quite returned to that level of production. He followed that season up with 86 catches for 882 yards in 2022, and his numbers fell off last year as the Steelers shifted the focus of their passing game to young wide receiver George Pickens. Johnson finished with a



Carolina Panthers wide receiver Diontae Johnson (5) catches a pass over Washington Commanders cornerback Mike Sainristil (0) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

career-low 51 catches for 717 yards along with five TDs in 2023.

Johnson had previously said that he wanted to remain with the Panthers af-

ter trade rumors began to swirl around him earlier this season, adding that he was happy catching passes from veteran quarterback Andy Dalton. □



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Analysis: NBA and WNBA coaching jobs 'don't have a long shelf life.' Lately that's been 1 to 3 years



Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra, left, chats with team president Pat Riley as they watch players practice for Game 2 of the NBA Finals, June 3, 2023, in Denver.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Erik Spoelstra quietly made history last week. He didn't see a reason for celebration. Spoelstra is in his 17th season as coach of the Miami Heat, which is the third-longest uninterrupted tenure by one coach with one team in NBA history. Gregg Popovich is in his 29th year with San Antonio, and Jerry Sloan had a 23-year run in Utah.

For most coaches in today's NBA, the idea of such a run may seem impossible. Half of the league's coaches — 15 of the 30 — are entering no more than their third year in their current job. There have been eight coaching changes in 2024 so far alone, and there's still two more months for an owner or general manager to decide to add to that list. "That's a sobering reality of this profession," Spoelstra said. "It bums me out when I hear that stat because there are a lot of really talented coaches that if they

had the same type of structure and continuity and belief from (their teams) ... there could be a lot more coaches able to do what I'm able to do here."

It's no secret that the term "job security" doesn't mean much in coaching, especially now.

The WNBA — coming off one of its most successful years ever in terms of attendance and attention — had 12 teams this season; seven of those teams currently do not have coaches. The Dallas Wings are about to hire their fourth coach in seven seasons. The Atlanta Dream made the playoffs; they let Tanisha Wright go anyway. The Indiana Fever, with Caitlin Clark coming off her record-setting rookie year, fired Christie Sides over the weekend after a 1-8 start was turned around into a playoff berth. And on Monday, the Connecticut Sun and coach Stephanie White parted ways after back-to-back trips to the WNBA semifinals.

The WNBA isn't trying to emulate the NBA's coaching carousel, but here we are. "Leave it better than you found it," Sides posted on social media after the Fever let her go.

The NBA still might be the gold standard when it comes to impatience with coaches, though. This past offseason saw some moves that, on paper, looked wild. The Los Angeles Lakers hired JJ Redick away from ESPN; Redick's only previous coaching job was leading fourth graders earlier this year. Phoenix parted with NBA champion Frank Vogel and replaced him with NBA champion Mike Budenholzer (whose ring came at the Suns' expense in 2021). JB Bickerstaff became the first coach to take a Cleveland Cavaliers team that didn't have LeBron James to the second round in more than 30 years and he, too, got fired. Bickerstaff ended up with Detroit. The Pistons had fired Monty Williams after one season — with

five years and something like \$65 million left on his contract. Williams now will coach his sons at a high school in San Antonio.

"You just keep doing the job you're supposed to do," Bickerstaff said.

He could have added "for as long as you have it," because in the NBA, who knows what'll happen next. Popovich fired Bob Hill as coach of the Spurs 18 games into the 1996-97 season and named himself coach. Tim Duncan arrived and changed the franchise's fortunes a year later, but in this NBA era Popovich's record in the completion of that first season — 17-47 — probably wouldn't have given him a chance to keep the job.

The move, obviously, paid off. Popovich has more wins than anyone in NBA history. And, when counting moves involving interim coaches, the next coaching change in the league will be the 300th since Popovich began coaching the Spurs.

Associated Press

There have been 183 different coaches in the league since Popovich started, not including himself. Of those, 78 have coached multiple franchises in that span — Alvin Gentry, Larry Brown, Mike D'Antoni and Doc Rivers have coached in five different places over those years, and another nine coaches having worked for four different franchises in that time. "You're always striving to be the best that you can be," said New Orleans coach Willie Green, who is entering Year 4 with the Pelicans and has been in his job longer than half the other coaches in the league have had their current gigs. "But you take these jobs, understanding that they don't have a long shelf life." Popovich isn't getting fired. Spoelstra is in Year 1 of an eight-year deal. Golden State's Steve Kerr will decide when it'll be his time to leave the Warriors. Joe Mazzulla surely has earned tons of security after leading Boston to an NBA title. Mark Daigneault has done an amazing job in building Oklahoma City. There are others who would surely be safe in their current job if things turn south, but probably not many.

"There's been 14 jobs open just in the last two years alone," said Spoelstra, part of a group in Miami — including team president Pat Riley — that is entering 30 years with the Heat. "In that regard, I think it's really a sad state for coaching. Coaching staffs aren't given enough of a time period to be able to develop a culture, develop the right habits, to go through the necessary adversity to get to that next level. I'm grateful we have that structure and stability here." □